

IURC News Release

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

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IURC GIVES PRELIMINARY SUPPORT TO SBC REQUEST FOR LONG DISTANCE

Today, in Cause No. 41657, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission issued an interim order, which moves SBC one step closer to entering the long distance market in Indiana.

Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, established a 14-point checklist that must be met in each state before Regional Bell Operating Companies (such as SBC) are allowed to provide both local and long distance services to their customers.

The IURC staff, independent auditor BearingPoint, and a collaborative comprised of SBC, competitive local exchange carriers including the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, consumer groups and others spent exhaustive hours to determine the accessibility of SBC's network to its competitors.

While the majority of the work is done, there are some details that need to be addressed before the Commission can make its recommendation to the Federal Communications Commission. SBC is asked to:

- agree to the continuance of the testing of performance measures, and to make necessary changes;
- submit a compliance plan similar to that proposed in Michigan and Illinois;
- make a modified remedy plan available to its competitors.

SBC has ten days to file a report with the Commission on its efforts to resolve the outstanding issues.

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